



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Van Ness Sign and Leasing
Austin Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a proposed Voluntary Cleanup Contract through April 18, 2018.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 18-5518-NRP, will affect approximately 5.87 acres located at 0 Austin Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina. The property is further identified by Charleston County Tax Map Serial Numbers 466-00-00-023. A company known as HR Charleston VIII, LLC (HRCVIII) wants to acquire the property from the current owner. This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and HRCVIII.

Historical records indicate that the Property has never been developed, but former nearby phosphate fertilizer operations may have resulted in contamination of the Property. Testing conducted as part of a voluntary cleanup contract in 2003 identified metals and pesticides in soil on the Property. Exposure to pesticides in soil is controlled through maintenance of a clean soil barrier over the contamination and land use restrictions. The Property is currently vacant with the exception of billboard signs.

HRCVIII plans a commercial use for the Property. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow HRCVIII to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of environmental pollution from past activities on the property. DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to encourage productive reuse of Brownfield sites.

DHEC will not hold HRCVIII responsible for pre-existing pollution on the property in exchange for doing work under a Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under the proposed contract, HRCVIII will conduct an evaluation of the clean soil barrier and repair and maintain the barrier as necessary. HRCVIII will be required to take steps to protect human health and the environment. HRCVIII did not create the pollution, but will control it to keep the property safe for re-use. Under State law, HRCVIII will not be responsible if anyone has been affected by the contamination. The responsibility of former owners or operators of the property is not reduced by this contract.

The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/PublicNotices/>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

The public may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract through April 18, 2018. Questions or comments may be directed to Angela Gorman, Project Manager, by e-mail at gormanak@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 898-0929, or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to Angela Gorman at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.